

Claims

1. An apparatus for cleansing wounds, comprising
a conformable wound dressing, having
5 a backing layer which is capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or
closure over a wound and
characterised in that it also comprises
a) a cleansing means for selectively removing materials that are
deleterious to wound healing from wound exudate, which means is
10 under the backing layer and sits in the underlying wound in use and
b) a moving device for moving fluid within the cleansing means, and
c) optionally bleed means for bleeding the cleansing means.
2. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, characterised in
15 that it is a single-phase system in which the fluid that is moved through the
means for fluid cleansing is wound exudate optionally mixed with an irrigant
which passes into, through and out of the cleansing means back to the
wound bed.
- 20 3. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, characterised in
that it is a multiple-phase system in which the means for fluid cleansing
comprises a chamber containing a cleansing fluid separated from the
wound exudate by means of a permeable integer, and the cleansing fluid
and/or the wound exudate optionally mixed with irrigant is/are moved
25 through the means for fluid cleansing by the device for moving fluid.
4. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, characterised in
that it is operated as a circulating system, in which the relevant fluid passes
through the cleansing means one or more times in only one direction.
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5. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, characterised in
that it is operated as a reversing system, in which the relevant fluid passes
through the cleansing means at least once in opposing directions.
- 35 6. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 3, characterised in
that the moving fluid is only the cleansing fluid.

7. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 3, characterised in that the moving fluids are the cleansing fluid and the wound exudate optionally mixed with irrigant.
- 5 8. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 3, characterised in that the permeable integer is selectively permeable to materials deleterious to wound healing in the wound exudate.
- 10 9. An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 3, characterised in that the permeable integer is not an integer selectively permeable to materials deleterious to wound healing and that in the cleansing fluid, or in one or more solid integers with at least one surface in contact with the cleansing fluid, in the means for fluid cleansing, there are one or more materials that can remove materials deleterious to wound healing in the
- 15 wound exudate.
10. A method of treating wounds to promote wound healing using the apparatus for cleansing wounds of claim 1.